सभी राज्यों के माननीय मुख्य मंत्रियों को सूची के साथ पत्र लिखा है कि इस रेलवे क्रॉसिंग पर ट्रेन क्रिकल यूनिट एक लाख से अधिक है, आप प्रस्ताव दें ताकि हम 50 परसेंट कास्ट शेयर करते हुए इसको स्वीकृति प्रदान करें।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Bamboo flowering

*165. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the phenomenal causes of bamboo flowering and its repeatability, predictions, implications, including famine, based on past experience;

(b) what is the probable period of bamboo flowering, action taken by the Ministry to face the situation, State-wise; and

(c) the utility of bamboo seeds, if any, because of enhancing prolificacy of rats?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The flowering of bamboos normally takes place in a cyclic manner after a fixed number of years and the cycle repeats after almost the same interval. This phenomenon makes the prospective flowering predictable to a large extent. The flowering is followed by the death of the flowered clumps. The flowering can be sporadic (scattered over the locality) or gregarious (all the clumps in a locality flowering together).

The implications are, increase in vulnerability of the area to forest fires due to high inflammability of dry bamboo clumps, problems of harvesting and marketing of large quantity of bamboo from remote areas and protection of tender shoots from grazing after the seeds germinate.

In Mizoram and some other areas of North Eastern Region, the biggest problem is the explosion in rodent population with the seeding which, after the seeds germinate, head towards farmlands in the adjoining areas and cause damage to crops and foodgrains. Such a chain of events has the potential to cause famine.

The phenomenon cause of bamboo flowering and death of its clumps thereafter is still not clearly known.

(b) The flowering cycle of bamboos depends on the species of the bamboo plant and not the State. In most of the States except Mizoram and some other areas of North East, the flowered clumps are harvested immediately after flowering and adequate measures are also taken for protection of area against fires and grazing. The main area of concern is Mizoram, which has the past experience of famine like conditions due to rodent menace. The details of flowering of Muli Bamboo (Melocanna baccifera) and Peka Bamboo (Bambusa tulda) in Mizoram are as under.

Sl. No.	Species	Year					Physiological cycle (Years)
1.	Muli Bamboo	1815	1863	1911	1959	2006-07	48
2.	Peka Bamboo	1785	1833	1881	1929	1977	48

In order to facilitate a coordinated and integrated action to deal with flowering of bamboos in Mizoram and other States in the North Eastern Region, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted a Steering Committee. The Ministry has also issued directions to the State Governments of the North Eastern Region to formulate Action Plans for managing the bamboo flowering areas.

(c) The bamboo seeds are rich in carbohydrate and protein and are the source for their regeneration.

Cleanliness in Railway Coaches

*166. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cleanliness, maintenance and upkeep of rail coaches are not upto the mark, causing inconvenience to the rail passengers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) All railway passenger coaches are properly maintained, cleaned and attended prior to commencement of journey from the base station. Trains are also